

be strongly enough motivated towards limiting their families to take the "Pill."

Meantime every effort should be made to help people use the present methods effectively.

MARGARET HADLEY JACKSON.

BIOGRAPHY

Gross, Felix. *Rhodes of Africa.* London 1956. Cassell. Pp. ix + 419. Price 25s.

THE author's journalistic experience, his twenty-five years in South Africa and his knowledge of Dutch, German and French have enabled him to tap many hitherto unused sources of information concerning the "Colossus of South Africa"—Cecil John Rhodes.

The result is far more interesting than many a novel and although, if anything, the bias is hostile there can be no doubt that each incident and circumstance in the remarkable career of this very remarkable man is set out with scrupulous honesty and the reader is left to form his own judgment.

As for Rhodes himself he was never worried as to whether his actions corresponded with current ethics. He felt himself above good and evil; he believed in his "visions, his instincts, his mission." Perhaps the best summing-up is that quoted (p. 417) of J. C. Molteno, "The ordinary man cannot judge Rhodes for he cannot understand him. The world can tolerate few men like him—and certainly only one at a time."

It was a disappointment to the Reverend Francis Rhodes, Vicar of Bishop's Stortford, that his fourth son, destined for the Church, had, perforce, to go to South Africa at the age of seventeen for health reasons. But Cecil had not been in Kimberley long before he graduated in its ways and was outshining his contemporaries, who were largely the jetsam of civilization, and became the virtual master of the diamond diggings.

He was gifted with great powers of observation and deduction and along with a multiplicity of other activities he, at a

later date, noted a particular breed of donkey in Egypt which struck him as superior to those in his Rhodesia. Thirty stallions were selected for crossing and "the result, still noticeable today, shows Rhodes's great foresight" (p. 404). Also, for his time, it was a stroke of genius to import the American ladybird and so save the Cape's orange groves from destruction by other insects.

As eugenists we must be grateful to him for leaving his vast fortune for the provision of scholarships at Oxford for those "who shall not be merely bookworms" but who show in addition qualities of "manhood, truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for the protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship"—even though the donor may not have been distinguished by the possession in his own person of all of these required qualities.

The fact that he never married, nor indeed was his name ever associated with that of any woman, makes for added sympathy with his disillusionment. "Money is power" he was fond of saying, only to find out—at the very climax of his career—how wrong that idea could be.

Twenty-two well reproduced photographs and a good index complete what must be described as a full, accurate and entertainingly written biography.

C. W. USHER.

FICTION

Walter, W. Grey. *Further Outlook.* London, 1956. Duckworth. Pp. 224. Price 12s. 6d.

It is not often that a novel is reviewed in these pages. The successful combination of scientific thought and fictional plot and characterization requires abilities of an exceptional order, and what may be fascinating in a Conan Doyle or a Wells may be poor stuff indeed in the hands of a hack-writer of detective novels or "science-fiction." Dr. Grey Walter's book may be placed alongside those of Verne and other pioneers for its ingenuity, and perhaps also